operations by day and night for seaward anti-terrorist patrols for security of naval assets, besides; interception at high speeds and perform search and rescue operations.

Investigation against IAI by Israeli authorities

2765. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government was aware that the Israeli authorities had investigated the Israel Aero Space Industries (IAI) for malpractices in contract with other countries and such charges led to the head of the IAI to stop down in 2005; and

(b) whether his Ministry is also aware that an Indian agent of IAI replaced by another, petitioned the Israeli Defence Ministry claiming that additional commissions were due to him?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): A newspaper article had appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi edition dated 25th January, 2008 captioned 'After Barak, Phalcon deal under cloud', alleging irregularities on the part of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in defence contracts including payment of commissions in the procurement of Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft by the Indian Air Force.

The matter was taken up with the Israeli Ministry of Defence who had informed that they had no document or report pertaining to the investigation regarding IAI Both the Israeli State Comptroller and the Economic Crimes Department in their State Attorney's Office (in charge of this investigation) had made clear that their investigations focused on alleged IAI procedures and practices without any references or connection whatsoever to the Indian transaction or Indian citizens. Further, the State Comptroller had issued no report on his inquiry and the police investigations ended with no charges being pressed against any person. No other information has been received in this regard.

Tunnel at Rohtang pass in H.P.

†2766. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) when were the tenders were floated to construct a tunnel at Rohtang pass for connecting Kullu to Lahul Spiti in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether work on the said tunnel already started, if so, the progress thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the work will start?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Global tender for construction of the tunnel was issued in November 2007. Technical and commercial bids have been opened and the same are under evaluation.

Establishment of Institute of Defence Design and Technology

†2767. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Institute of Defence Development, Design and Technology has been established for manufacturing defence equipment as desired by Defence Minister about two years ago;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to bring the production processes and technologies being utilized, but not yet adopted, under the purview of this Institute; and

(c) whether Government would consider taking cooperation of private sector in this regard on pattern of U.S.A.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A Group of Officers was constituted by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) to prepare a concept paper for establishing a National Institute for developing Human Resources in the area of design & development of defence equipment and platforms.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no such proposal.

Filling of vacancies in offices of EPF

2768. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in different cadres that remain unfilled in the offices of the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) the number of vacancies in the categories reserved for Most Backward/Backward/SC-ST Communities; and

(c) by when these vacancies will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The number of vacancies In different cadres that remain unfilled in the offices of the Employees Provident Fund as on 13.07.2009 are given below:

Group A	120
Group B	690
Group C	4050
Group D	267

(b) The number of vacancies In reserved caegories as on 13.07.2009 are given below:

	SC	ST	OBC
Group A	23	14	28
Group B	89	25	120
Group C	520	250	814
Group D	24	07	84

(c) Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Expeditious action is being taken to fill up all the vacancies.